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ABSTRACT

This policy based on the principle that all types of libraries and users stand to benefit from increased cooperation was adopted by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction in 1979. The development and support of both formal and informal cooperative arrangements is encouraged as a means to facilitate resource sharing among all schools within a district. Also stressed is the development of cooperative activities between school media programs and other types of libraries, depending upon local needs. Some suggested activities are: (1) centralized cataloging and processing, (2) reference and referral services, (3) interlibrary loans, (4) shared publicity programs, (5) newsletters, (6) coordinated acquisition programs, and (7) continuing education. Cooperative organizations where staff from all types of libraries work together are also recommended. School media programs are urged either to participate in any existing cooperative activities, or to take responsibility for forming appropriate organizations where none currently exist. (BK)

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Instructional Media Programs in the State Library Network

A Policy Statement

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Bureau of Public and Cooperative Library Services
State of Wisconsin – 1980

IR 008777

Instructional Media Programs in the State Library Network

A Policy Statement

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

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On June 8, 1979, the Wisconsin Council on Library Development approved this statement of policy and formally recommended it to the State Superintendent. On August 15, 1979, State Superintendent Barbara Thompson announced her adoption of the statement as a policy of the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

Additional copies of this bulletin can be obtained free of charge from: Publication Sales, Department of Public Instruction, 126 Langdon Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53702.

Consultant assistance is available from either the Bureau of Public and Cooperative Library Services, (608)266-7270; or from the Bureau of Instructional Media Programs, 126 Langdon Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53702 (608)266-1965.

Bulletin No. 0394

3

AUG 1 8 1980

Preface

Wisconsin schools have reason to be proud of the progress made over the last ten years in developing instructional media programs well suited to support the diverse curricular offerings available to our children and young people. The preferred organizational form for these programs is the instructional media center, which brings together learning resources and staff to serve as facilitators of learning processes for students and teachers.

But even these strengthened instructional media programs, standing alone, cannot be adequate. No library or media center can meet all the needs of its users.

The information needs of students and all other citizens will best be served when all libraries and information centers have been brought into contact with one another through a well articulated network of resources.

In placing a priority in completing the State Library Network, I am aware of the necessity of including schools in all levels.

As a result, I have adopted as Department policy the statement "Instructional Media Programs in the State Library Network." It emphasizes the fundamental point that all types of libraries and their users stand to gain from cooperative activities with other types of libraries.

What can school administrators, school boards and teachers do to increase library cooperation and resource sharing? First, you can make sure that resources are shared <u>within</u> your school district. You can consider loaning materials between your district and nearby ones, or providing specialized materials through your cooperative educational service agency.

You can encourage your media personnel to work with personnel of academic and public libraries in the local community; participate in multitype library activities at the area level; and agree to lend as well as to borrow media resources.

For the benefit of your students and teachers, and the citizens and taxpayers you serve, I urge upon you participation in local, area, and state library cooperation and networking activities.

Barbara Thompson

Rationale

Libraries of all types--academic, public, school and special--share the common goal of providing individuals and groups with access to materials and information which will satisfy educational, working, cultural and leisure-time needs and interests.

Beyond this common goal, libraries have distinct responsibilities for providing specific materials and services which will meet the needs of the particular clients they serve, such as administrators, faculty and students at all levels, persons in business and industry, residents of health care institutions, and individuals with special needs, including the disadvantaged, elderly and physically handicapped.

In order to provide the best possible library services to the persons they serve, libraries of all types should work together to supplement and strengthen each others' services. All libraries have a role to play in sharing resources. All libraries can benefit from cooperative activities.

The Policy

The Department of Public Instruction is firmly committed to the principle that all types of libraries and their users stand to gain from cooperative activities with other types of libraries. Resource sharing would provide comprehensive access to needed information and materials for all users. Therefore, the Department strongly supports and encourages the development of effective formal and informal arrangements through which the resources in instructional media programs are shared among all schools within a district, between districts, and with public, academic and special libraries. The Department also supports participation in resource sharing activities to obtain materials needed by students and teachers.

Implementing the Policy

Activities . . .

Cooperative activities between school media programs and other types of libraries can vary depending on local needs. Activities that might be considered for area library cooperation can include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Discussing and sharing solutions to common problems
- Centralized cataloging and processing
- Reference and referral services (answering questions beyond scope of local resources)
- Union lists (of available books, AV materials and periodicals owned by libraries in the area)
- Coordinated access to state-level library resources
- Advance notice of school assignments and special programs
- Interlibrary loans
- Continuing education activities (shared by staff members from all types of libraries)
- Delivery systems (using existing systems, e.g., mail routes, hot lunch delivery systems, CESA delivery systems, traveling teachers, etc.)
- Communication systems (intercom, telephone, cable TV loop, etc.)
- Coordinated acquisition program (e.g., shared purchase of expensive materials)
- Newsletters (to announce new materials and services)
- Publicity programs (to inform users and the general public of available services)
- Sharing specialized services, personnel and equipment

Structures . . .

Cooperative library activities flourish when staff from all types of libraries work together in an organization that represents all types of libraries and that provides a mechanism for continuous planning and ongoing coordination of cooperative activities. Organizations which are currently involved in supporting cooperative activities among all types of libraries include public library systems, area multitype library councils, committees, associations and CESAs.

If one of these organizations is presently coordinating multitype library activities, school media programs should participate in those activities. If no organization is presently taking this responsibility, school districts should work with existing organizations and libraries to form a suitable structure for cooperation.

The maps found on the following pages will help in locating existing organizations or structures that support resource sharing activities.

If more information on cooperative library programs is needed, please contact Margaret Branson (608)266-2413; Elizabeth Merriam (608)266-2413; or Richard Sorensen (608)266-1924. All three are located at the Division for Library Services, 126 Langdon Street, Madison, WI 53702.

MULTITYPE LIBRARY ORGANIZATIONS

IN WISCONSIN

- Fox Valley Library Council
- Indianhead Library System
- Library Council of Metropolitan Milwaukee
- Madison Area Library Council
- Manitowoc/Calumet Library System
- Mid-Wisconsin Multitype Library Association
- Multitype Advisory Committee of Arrowhead Library System
- Northeast Wisconsin Intertype Libraries
- Northwest Wisconsin Multitype Library Council
- Southwest Wisconsin Association of Libraries
- Tri-county Library Council
- Winding Rivers Intertype Library Council
- Wisconsin Valley Library Service Library Advisory Committee

February, 1980

Division for Library Services
Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
Barbara Thompson, Ph.D., State Superintendent

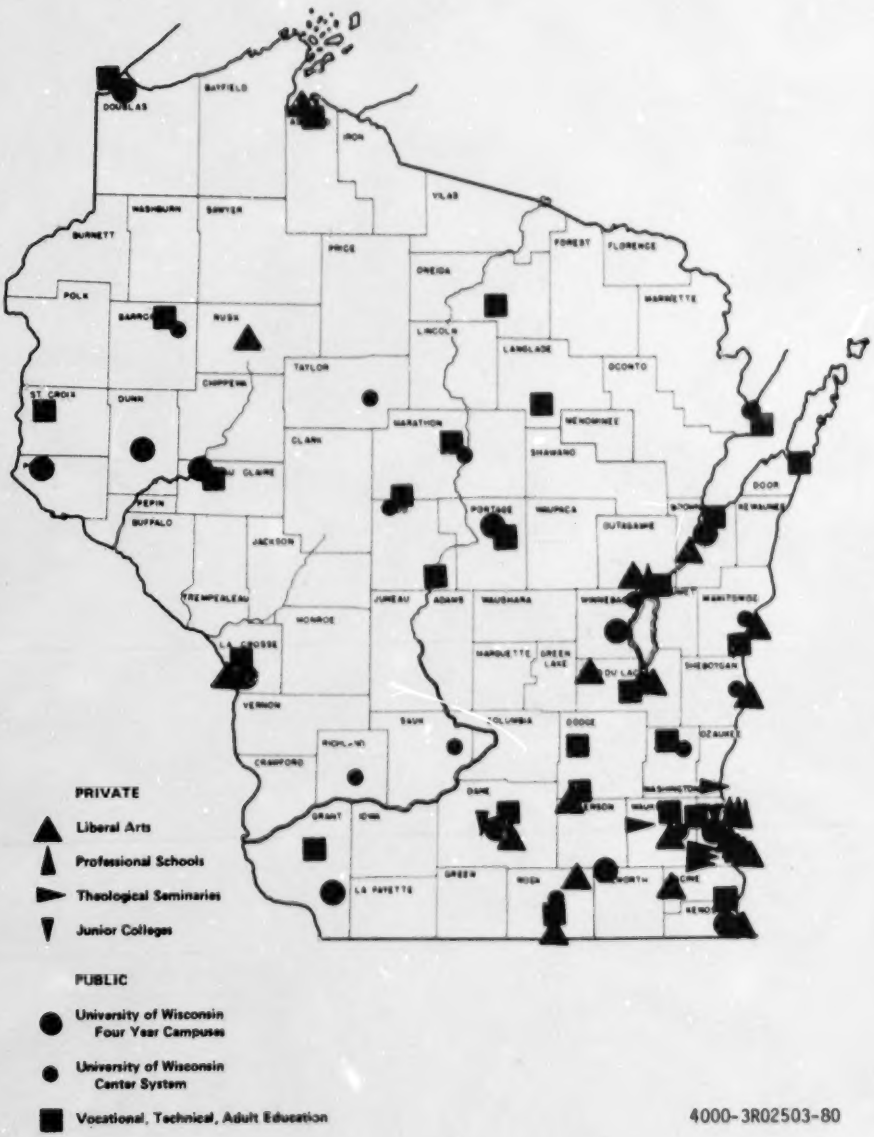
January 1, 1980

Wisconsin Public Library Systems 1980

KEY

● System Headquarters
■ Resource Library

Wisconsin Academic Libraries



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